

COUNCILMEMBER CARL DEMAIO

FIFTH DISTRICT

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

Julle Mais

DATE:

October 27, 2010

TO:

Eduardo Luna, City Auditor

FROM:

Councilmember Carl DeMaio

RE:

Use of "Out of Class Assignment" Pay

My office recently received an anonymous letter alerting us to a potential variation in the use of "Out of Class Assignment" pay by the Fire Department (letter attached).

I do not feel that we are not in a position to verify whether the allegations in the anonymous letter are accurate, and as such, have decided to forward this to the City Auditor's office.

The following data was provided from the City's financial system in response to an unrelated data request. While the data suggests a difference between the Police and Fire departments' respective use of OCA pay, it is completely unknown whether this difference is due to a justified policy, coincidence or any other reason.

Department	FY 2010 OCA Expense*	FY 2011 OCA Expense (as of 10/15/10)*
Fire-Rescue	\$374,946	\$85,361
Police	\$5,309,784	\$1,346,728

*Note that this data has been provided to our office with the caveat that it has "reliability issues," and is subject to change.

I request that the City Auditor examine the claim provided to my office to determine whether the allegation is substantiated.

Carl,

The EMT pay is a scam but there is a bigger scam.

The term OCA stands for out of class assignment. Every department in the City utilizes this type of backfilling approach when employees are sick, vacation or out of work...except fire. They don't utilize it so firefighters can earn overtime. The cost of this decision (non use of OCA) adds up to millions of dollars a year and the finance folks in fire, along with the chief and the fire union are all in it together.

Good luck and please consider this anonymous.